

A M E N D M E N T
Proposed by Senator Webb

At the appropriate place in the committee report insert the following:

Secretary of the Navy report on an outlying landing field:

The committee notes the requirement for the Department of the Navy to establish an outlying landing field (OLF) to support the stationing and operation of carrier-based fixed-wing aircraft on the East Coast of the United States within a suitable range of both Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia, and Naval Station Norfolk/Chambers Field, Virginia. The OLF will also support training requirements of transient carrier-based aircraft to be stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina. The OLF serves as a critical training facility for pilots to practice aircraft carrier landings with lower risk and under more controlled conditions before conducting highly demanding day and night carrier landings at sea. A new OLF will afford the Department increased scheduling capacity to mitigate current capacity shortfalls, greater operational flexibility, improved safety, and higher training fidelity in operational flight training on the East Coast. The committee is aware that public opposition has been expressed to the Department of the Navy during the preparation of an environmental impact statement evaluating sites for a future OLF in North Carolina and Virginia. The committee expects the Secretary of the Navy to take into consideration the impact on local communities of the placement and operation of an OLF and to examine means to mitigate the impact on those communities. As part of that consideration, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to engage and consult with the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as local governments and other public stakeholders, prior to the issuance of a final environmental impact statement and record of decision, to identify ways to mitigate impacts, to evaluate opportunities for economic assistance, and to minimize the land removed from the state tax base. The committee further directs the Secretary of the Navy, prior to the issuance of a final environmental impact statement and record of decision, to provide to the Congressional Defense committees a report containing a review of the aforementioned engagement and consultations, as well as the results of those engagements. The report shall include a description of the measures taken by the Department of the Navy to identify all suitable options for the location of an outlying landing field.